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Newsletter

Number 01

3 February 2015



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Welcome to the 2015 school year. A special welcome to our new families.

Newsletters (Keeping Informed)

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday (early this week). Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website.

Early Thanks

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.
 ...Helen Dorahy and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.
 .. Gail Wynyard for taking the time to make the gardens look nice for the beginning of school.
 ...to parents who have already acted to ensure children are well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

People of the week

.. ...to those parents & grandparents who made our 2014 prize giving so special and to all of those children who were called to the stage.
 ... Mr D, Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Abbott for the huge effort that has gone in to organizing a truly amazing senior camp.

Best wishes

.. seniors for a truly memorable camp next week!

Term dates 2015

Term 1	2 February to 2 April
Term 2	20 April to 3 July
Term 3	20 July to 25 September
Term 4	12 October to 15 December (tentative)

Term calendar

More to follow as dates come to hand!

9-13 Feb	Year 7 and 8 camp to Auckland
16 Feb	Whanau meeting
23 Feb	Swimming trials
23/24 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
26 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School
10 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
17 March	Year 4-6 Summer Sports Tournament
24 March	Year 7-8 Summer Sports Tournament
2 April	Final day of term

Whanau Meeting

Monday 16 February starting 4:30 PM by the pool. Sausage sizzle and swim. Open to anyone interested in things Maori. See you there.

Junior Swimming Sports ... dates and times to follow shortly.

Notice to camp parents

Please refer to the camp diary for information. A reminder we depart at 8:00 AM Monday on the dot. Anticipated return time is 4:30 PM on Friday ... we are usually pretty much on time, but please confirm with the school office around mid-day on Friday. Scotty is happy to take questions by email over the weekend and can be contacted on sdelemare@matarau.school.nz

Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance (Necessary in the event that our rolls are audited by the Ministry of Ed).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

The Board is grateful for payment of school contributions and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, improve access to digital devices, employ additional teacher aides, expand special needs hours, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement or quarterly. The trips and events fee is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year.

If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.

Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

Sunhats

A reminder that school broad brimmed sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

Hopscotch For Kids- after school care - is seeking expressions of interest from Matarau School for Term 1 2015. They will meet and transport kids from Matarau School and back to their Kensington base. Afternoon tea and support with homework is provided. Children are accompanied to and from their chosen activity or (run activities from their Kensington base) until you are able to collect them before 5.45pm. For further information phone Wendy on 021733186 or Abbey on 0212372598 or email hello@hopscotchforkids.co.nz. IF INTERESTED PLEASE REGISTER THIS INTEREST WITH HOPSCOTCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 23 and 24 February - **online booking will open shortly (more to follow).** Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

Special Needs Programme

If your child is selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's or Mrs Walker's support programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is expected.

Punctuality

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call. Many thanks.

Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2015 swimming season.

Bus Times

Bus times and routes are as at the end of last year. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.

Early Buses - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 23 and 24 February because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

Pick up of Children

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 12, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.
2. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.
3. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office). Non-bus children remaining at school after 3:25 should be placed in the After School Care Programme.

End of Day Buses

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please -

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

Term Headlice Inspection

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak. We are keen for offers of help and so, if you are able to help with inspections, please phone Donna Cates here at school. - Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

Request from our Librarian

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **23 February** please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.

Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.

Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Some medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. Please contact us if unsure.

Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.

Swimming

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

- .. **drinking plenty of water.** Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).
- ... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM (or earlier) is suggested for all children.
- .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.
- .. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

Guitar Lessons

If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

Friday Lunches

.. start next week ... order form attached. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

Monday Lunches

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but I am always available

down the track or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week. Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

Questions

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask. Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website.

School contribution / ipads etc ... Year 4 to 8 students only

Thank you for the positive response to the board's proposal re ipads in 2015. The Board is trying to keep costs as low as possible and give you options. We realise that there are divergent views out there on the role of digital technology in learning, and we want to be respectful of this fact. Our digital technology survey indicated that 50% of families who responded were keen to purchase ipads for their children, smaller proportions indicated they were happy for the children to use the school ones on the condition that we increase availability. Circumstances differ. The call is entirely yours. You should feel under no pressure in any direction. Our goal is simply to grow our competency in using digital technologies to enhance learning, and to ensure that children can access these technologies when they are needed. As the year unfolds we intend to provide you with information on how digital technologies are being used to add value to learning without "throwing the baby out with the bathwater".

We have had some excellent questions regarding our ipad proposal and thought it might be useful to share these. These were sent out last yaer but we have been asked to send these again ... with a couple of additions.

1. **Are we expected to buy an ipad?** Absolutely not. Up to you!
2. **Will there be advantages to our child having their own ipad?** Yes, we think so. They will have more access and can use these at home. They can also use them for some of their homework.
3. **Will my child be disadvantaged if they do not have one?** Not too much. Depends on the child. They will still have access to shared technologies at school.
4. **If my child has their own ipad can they still use the school devices?** Yes, when they need to.
5. **If I do not buy them an ipad will there be enough school ones to go around?** We will do our best, but these will inevitably be shared. There will be a much better ratio of school devices in 2015 than in 2014.
6. **Will the school load relevant software onto purchased ipads so that this software can be used at home?** Depends on the software / licensing etc. We are looking into this.
7. **If I can get an ipad cheaper than the Noel Leeming offer is this a problem?** No, go for it.
8. **Minis or full size ... which is best?** Both do exactly the same thing but one is easier to see. Perhaps dependent on age of child, eye tracking, does your child wear glasses etc
9. **My child is in year 7 or 8 and so should I buy an ipad?** Up to you. They will use these (they are fun devices) but will also use other devices as we prepare them for secondary school.
10. **Can I buy a device for my year 7 and 8 child, which they will be able to take through to secondary school?** The problem here is that the secondary schools use different platforms and it is not easy to operate a year 7 and 8 class with multiple platforms.
11. **Can I buy my year 7 and 8 child an ipad and pass it to a younger sibling when they head off for secondary school?** Great idea.
12. **Will digital technologies replace the conventional teaching and learning methods that we value and know make a difference?** No. Where possible we will use them in ways that complement and enhance the traditional ways of learning and teaching. More to come on this front.
13. **Can maths whizz be run on an ipad?** Being worked on at the moment. Looking promising.

- 14. Will digital technologies make children less mobile and active?** Good question. We need to make sure there is a balance and that children get plenty of opportunities to run and play and interact.
- 15. Will there be measures to ensure my child's ipad is looked after while at school?** We will need to put protocols in place (and a lockable space) and will do our best. Your child has a part to play here also.
- 16. Are digital technologies and wifi systems safe?** After many months of researching this topic I am convinced that there is unlikely to ever be an answer that satisfies everyone. The Ministry of Health has issued a public statement in the safety of school wifi systems. Their website is worth a visit and it has a number of interesting links.
- 17. Why ipads ... why not other suitable devices?** It is problematic to operate a classroom with multiple devices for a number of reasons. One platform makes things easier for everyone and enables teachers to more easily integrate software / devices into their class programmes.
- 18. If our child has their own ipad will they have to share it at school?** No, we will discourage this.
- 19. How many children do we expect will have their own devices?** Difficult to say. Earlier indications were that we might get an about even split.

Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Plenty to get excited about this year... a focus on writing, reading fiction, library promotion, reading logs, making and sustaining friendships, digital technologies, personalised learning and more . More to follow. Welcome on board. Great to be back.

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



School Lunches



Mondays - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

Wednesdays - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

Fridays - \$4.00 : Hot Mince Pie, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a

Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday. See order form attached to this week's newsletter if you want to bulk order for term 4.

FRIDAY SCHOOL LUNCHES

HAVE A DAY OFF MAKING LUNCHES AND SUPPORT THE SCHOOL!

- ☺ Below is an order form for **Friday** lunches.
- ☺ These can be ordered for the term in advance, or weekly if desired.
- ☺ **Please have weekly orders placed at the school office by the Wednesday to receive an order the following Friday.**
- ☺ Please make cheques payable to Matarau School.

Thanks for supporting our fundraiser.

WEEKLY ORDER FORM – Term 1 2015

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

Child _____

___ Sausage Roll/Muesli Bar/Drink \$4.00
___ Big Daddy Sausage Roll/Drink \$4.00
___ Milk Drink - extra \$1.00

Room _____

___ Mince Pie or Mince N Cheese/Drink \$4.00
___ Mince N Cheese or Butter Chicken Wrap/Drink \$4.00

TERM ORDER - Total Amount Owing For Term 1 - 7 weeks

Items @ \$4.00 x _____ weeks =

Items @ \$5.00 x _____ weeks =

In the case of a child's absence from school and instructions to the contrary, we are unable to guarantee a refund or provide a lunch on a subsequent week.